

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An optical amplifying device comprising a slab of material which is pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material to provide a gain region-adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, said path comprising at least two, spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in said gain region.
2. (Original) A device according to Claim 1 wherein the grazing incidence reflections include reflections of not more than 20 degrees.
3. (Original) A device according to Claim 1 wherein the grazing incidence reflections include reflections of not more than 10 degrees.
4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the gain region has more than one gain area, and the reflections occur in different respective gain areas.
5. (Original) A device according to Claim 4 wherein at least two gain areas of the gain region are different spatial areas of a common gain region.

6. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 4 wherein at least two gain areas are each provided by different respective pump sources.

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, provided with feedback to the gain region enabling the device to lase in use so as to provide an optical source.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the path comprises at least one mirror.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the path comprises at least one surface of the slab of material.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the gain extraction associated with each grazing incidence reflection in the gain region is of a comparable magnitude.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of amplifying optical radiation comprising side-pumping a slab of material via side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material to provide a gain region adjacent said side face, and guiding said optical radiation along a path comprising at least two spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in said gain region..

13. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a first optical amplifying device comprising a slab of material which is pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material to provide a gain region adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, said path comprising at least two, spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in said gain region; and

a second optical amplifying device for receiving and amplifying ~~device for receiving and amplifying~~ radiation output by the optical source comprising a slab of material which is pumped via a side face thereof with pump radiation of a frequency which is absorbed by the material to provide a gain region adjacent said side face, the device defining a path through the gain region for optical radiation to be amplified, said path comprising at least two, spatially-different grazing-incidence reflections in said gain region;

wherein said first and second optical amplifying devices share a common slab of material.

14. (Previously Presented) A device as claimed in claim 7, in which a common slab of material both amplifies said optical radiation and receives and amplifies radiation output by said optical source.